THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of Andhra Pradesh has submitted a proposal to Government of India for Central assistance to supply 40,000 kgs. of silk yarn during 1993-94, against the purchase of 24,838 Kgs. of silk yarn during the last year 1992-93.

(c) The Government has decided to provide necessary Central assistance keeping in view the overall fund position and also demand from other States under the National Silk Yarn Bank Scheme.

Smuggling of Silk Yarn

2056. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM:

DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to impose a ban on the import of silk yarn for local consumption to protect the domestic farmers of sericulture;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh have requested the Central Government to stop smuggling of ungraded silk yarn in the country; and

(e) what effect measures Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (c) No, Sir. As a matter of policy, the imports of raw silk for domestic consumption are allowed only in the case exigencies of its short supply and or abnormal increase in its prices in the local markets.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The concerned Government agencies have been suitably alerted and close coordination is being maintained to check the smuggling of raw silk effectively.

Functioning of Apparel Export Promotion Council

2057. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that country's major garment exporters have expressed concern against the bureaucratic functioning of the Apparel Export Promotion Council;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to free the AEPC of bureaucrats and replace them with professionals who are more adopt in handling export programmes on commercial lines; and

(c) whether it is a fact that while Government consults the industry in forming broad policy guidelines, the industry is totally ignored in the matter of frequent amendments brought forth by AEPC causing confusion and delay in clearance of shipments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b) The activities of the Apparel Export Promotion Council are handled, at the official level, by the Director General, who is Government official on deputation, assisted by a team of professionals recruited by the Council. Government receives from time to time representations from garment exporters on various issues including functioning of Apparel Export Promotion Council. Appropriate decisions are taken on these representations keeping in view the objectives of improving export performance as well as ensuring fair and objective quota administration.

(c) Policy decisions regarding the export entitlement distribution and clearance of shipments thereunder are taken by the Government and the industry is always consulted before taking such decisions and also when changes are made in the decisions taken earlier.